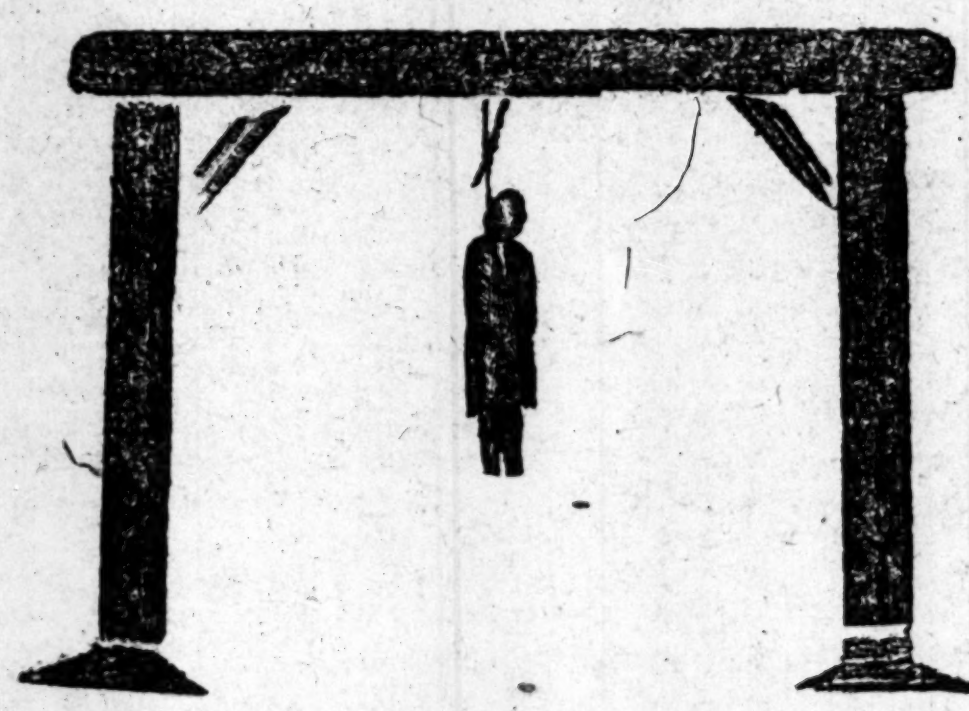
Laſt Dying SPEECH,

Birth, Parentage, and Education,

Of that unfortunate Malefactor, *John Clarke*, who was executed this Day on a tempory Gallows, erected for that purpoſe, for the Murder of Elizabeth Mann, his Fellow-ſervant, whom he got with Child, and then murdered.

With an affecting Copy of a LETTER written by him to his Wife and three Children the night before his execution.



JOHN Clarke, the unhappy malefactor, was gardner to C. Long, Eſq, where Elizabeth Mann alſo lived as dairy-maid.

He was tried for this murder at Maidſtone, on Wedneſday laſt. It appeared that the unhappy young woman was ſix months gone with child to him.

After a trial, which laſted from ſeven in the morning till twelve, he was found guilty and received ſentence to be exeeuted on Friday, near where he committed the murder. During the whole trial he behaved with the moſt unparelleled firmneſs, to the aſtoniſhment of all preſent.

The firmneſs that he diſplayed on the trial he continued to the laſt. Friday morning he was conducted in a cart from the Jail at Maidſtone to the fatal ſcaffold, where he was in a few moments to terminate his earthly careet.

On his way to the fatal tree he behaved with true reſignation to his fate. Though he did not ſeem ſo much effected as men in his ſituation in general are, yet he joined earneſtly in prayer with the Clergymen who attended him.

When the executioner came to faſten the fatal nooſe he begged to be heard a few moments, which being granted, he thus addreſſed the ſurrounding populace:

" *Good Chriſtians, and you young Men in particular,*

" You ſee before you the fatal effects of the indulgence of unlawful paſſions. O young men, take warning by my untimely fate; avoid above every ſin, that of luſt. I have found it, when given way to, one of the moſt deſtructive paſſions. It imperceptibly hurried me on to commit the worſt of crimes, that of murder; had I been contented and happy in the chaſte embraces of a faithful wife I never ſhould have come to this untimely end. I truſt my example will reclaim many. I heartily forgive my proſecutors and die in peace with all the world. I earneſtly requeſt your prayers for my poor ſinful departing ſoul, Lord have mercy on me and receive my ſoul. *Amen.*"

After he had thus ſpoke, he bowed, the execution performed his office; and, on a ſignal being given, he was launched into eternity, amidſt the tears of many.

He was a handſome man, born in the North of Scotland, in the 35th year of his age, of a blooming countenance and pleaſing addreſs: As he paſſed for a ſingle man, he unfortunately prevailed on the too credulous Elizabeth Mann to commit a ſin which coſt them both their lives. Previous to this ſhe bore an excellent character in the family, in which ſhe had lived near four years.

After hanging the uſual time, his body was cut down.

The night before he ſuffered he wrote the following letter to his wife:

" INJUR'D BETSY,

" HOW ſhall I make atonement to you for my paſt errors; how make reparation for the diſtreſſed ſituation into which my guilt has plunged you and my innocent family. Oh! my Betſey, had my love to you been as chaſte as yours to me, how reverſe would have been my ſituation—inſtead of my ignominious death—I ſhould have been bleſs'd and happy in my family and you. Gracious God forgive me, and be your preſerver and the protector of my family. Bear your ſufferings with reſignation, and carefully watch the youth of my young Edward and his ſiſters. Pray for me; as I have done for you and them, and ſhall continue to the lateſt breath of your dying and penitent husband,

J. CLARKE."